



A Trailblazing Career in Paediatric Surgery: The Journey of Professor Adesoji Oludotun Ademuyiwa

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Cite as: Oyegbola, C., & Oyewande, O. Trailblazing Career in Paediatric Surgery: The Journey of Professor Adesoji Oludotun Ademuyiwa. *Impact Surgery*, 1(6), 212–213. <https://doi.org/10.62463/surgery.118>



Professor Adesoji Oludotun Ademuyiwa, a leading figure in paediatric surgery and global health research, has built an exemplary career defined by academic excellence, groundbreaking research, and dedicated mentorship. As he prepares to deliver the second inaugural lecture during the 2024/2025 academic session at the University of Lagos, his remarkable journey and contributions in paediatric surgery, research, and medical education deserve reflection.

Born on June 16, 1973, in Ibadan, Nigeria, and hailing from Aiyedire in Osun State, Professor Ademuyiwa's academic journey began at Bishop Phillips' Academy, where he completed his West African School Certificate in 1989. His passion for surgery was ignited during his

medical studies at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, where he earned his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree in 1998. Influenced by the mentorship of neurosurgeon Prof. Temitayo Shokunbi, he chose to specialize in surgery, but his choice of paediatric surgery were influenced by three of his teachers in Paediatrics – Prof Vidal Nottidge, Prof Gbemiro Shodeinde and Prof Samuel Omokhodion.

After completing his medical degree, Professor Ademuyiwa furthered his training, becoming a Fellow of the West African College of Surgeons (FWACS Paed) in 2006 and the Medical College of Surgeons (FMCS Paed) in 2008. He later obtained fellowships from prestigious bodies, including the American College of Surgeons (FACS), the Medical College of Emergency Medicine (FMCEM), and the Nigerian Academy of Medicine (FNAMed). In addition to these achievements, he earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria.

Throughout his career, Professor Ademuyiwa has led Nigeria's involvement in numerous high-profile observational studies and clinical trials, such as the COVIDSurg study, GlobalSurg 1 and 2, and the FALCON and CHEETAH trials. These initiatives have highlighted his commitment to improving surgical outcomes in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs) and enhancing global health research.

Professor Ademuyiwa's career has not been without its challenges. His work in complex paediatric surgeries, such as Swenson's pull-through for Hirschsprung's disease in adults, showcased his ability to innovate and push surgical boundaries. Lessons from these experiences have strengthened his leadership in paediatric surgery.

As the Director of the National Institute for Health Research, Global Surgery Unit, Nigeria Hub, he has



played a pivotal role in building research capacity in resource-limited settings. His editorial contributions to the African Journal of Paediatric Surgery and the Journal of Clinical Sciences have amplified his influence in advancing scholarly research in Africa. With over 180 publications and more than 9,500 citations, Professor Ademuyiwa's work in surgical epidemiology and global surgery has earned widespread recognition.

Currently serving as a Professor of Surgery at the University of Lagos and a Paediatric Surgeon at Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Professor Ademuyiwa continues to lead collaborative research initiatives. His focus on crowd-sourced surgical trials is shaping clinical practice on a global scale. Moving forward, he remains committed to advancing health systems in LMICs, fostering international research collaboration, and mentoring future generations of surgeons.

Professor Ademuyiwa's career stands as a testament to his dedication to improving healthcare in Nigeria and beyond. His legacy as a surgeon, researcher, and mentor continues to inspire others in the fields of paediatric surgery and global health.